

# September 2022

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# SURREY LABOUR MARKET REPORT

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**SURREY BOARD OF TRADE**



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# **Surrey Board of Trade Surrey Labour Market Intelligence Report**

September 2022 (including results of Statistics Canada's August 2022 Labour Force Survey)

The Surrey Board of Trade (SBOT) continues to provide the only Surrey-specific labour market data on a regular basis! This summary report compares employment changes in Surrey from before the COVID-19 pandemic (February 2020) and through to August 2022 to show the local employment impacts of the pandemic. This report is prepared by Human Capital Strategies in conjunction with the Surrey Board of Trade.

## **Highlights**

Employment in Surrey in August 2022 was an estimated impressive 4.0%, or 11,793 jobs, above employment before the pandemic in February 2020, and almost 37,000 higher than the lowest job levels in April 2020.

In August 2022, the Surrey economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic continues to be driven by a two-pronged strength: knowledge-based industries and resource industries. However, many other goods and services sectors in Surrey are recovering gradually to exceed February 2020 employment levels.

Health care, natural resources, public administration, and tech sectors are leading the Surrey jobs recovery. An exception to knowledge-based growth is that the education, law and social, community and government services sector is still down by almost 1,100 jobs in Surrey, -4.1% below February 2020.

A bright spot for the first time since the start of the pandemic is the information, culture and recreation sector in Surrey, with over 2,800 more jobs than in February 2020, an almost 30% increase.

On the other hand, a number of sectors continue to lag in their jobs recovery in Surrey. Finance, insurance and real estate, other services, wholesale and retail trade, and construction all remain below pre-pandemic employment levels. Other services shows the greatest percentage deficit at -16.4%.

While jobs in business, finance and administration, management and tech occupations are all up significantly since February 2020, sales and service positions remain the single largest drop in jobs - down by over 8,400 or -10.1% in Surrey. At the same time, the arts, culture, recreation and sport positions are up 12.1% or 800 jobs in the community.

Recovery continues in Surrey - of 15 industry categories in December 2021, 9 of them have employment levels above that of February 2020. Further, only two of 10 occupational categories have not yet recovered.

In summary, many Surrey industries and occupational categories have rebounded to employment levels above pre-pandemic February 2020. While finance, some services, trade and construction employment continue to lag, some sectors have shown significant recovery thanks to the elimination of COVID-19 restrictions. Even the hard-hit accommodation and food services sector is almost back to pre-pandemic employment levels, only down -264 jobs since February 2020.

# COVID-19 Employer, Labour Force and Workforce Impacts in August 2022

*Surrey Employer COVID-19 Employment Impacts: Estimates extrapolated from Statistics Canada's 2016 Census and 2022 Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey (September 2022).*

## Surrey Employment COVID-19 Impacts BY INDUSTRY – February 2020 to August 2022

Employment in Surrey in August 2022 was an estimated 4.0% or almost 11,800 jobs above employment before the pandemic in February 2020; and almost 37,000 higher than the lowest period in April 2020. The largest employment sectors in Surrey in August 2022 were:

1. Wholesale and retail trade (49,639)
2. Health care and social assistance (39,543)
3. Transportation and warehousing (27,574)
4. Manufacturing (27,542)
5. Construction (31,180)
6. Professional, scientific and technical (22,283)

Table 1 shows employment change between February 2020 (pre-COVID) and August 2022 in Surrey, by industry.

**Table 1: Estimated Employment by Industry in Surrey<sup>1</sup> – February 2020 through August 2022**  
Adapted from Table 14-10-0379-01, Statistics Canada<sup>2</sup>

North American Industry Classification System (NAICS)	Employment February 2020	Employment April 2020	Employment August 2022	Change February 2020 to August 2022	
				Jobs	%
<b>Total Employed (all industries)</b>	296,748	271,848	308,541	11,793	4.0%
<b>Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing, Mining, Quarrying, Oil &amp; Gas</b>	3,008	4,483	4,483	1,475	49.0%
<b>Utilities</b>	1,687	2,230	2,136	450	26.7%
<b>Construction</b>	32,644	29,793	31,180	-1,464	-4.5%
<b>Manufacturing</b>	26,833	25,580	27,542	708	2.6%
<b>Wholesale &amp; Retail Trade</b>	51,604	46,077	49,639	-1,965	-3.8%
<b>Transportation &amp; Warehousing</b>	27,229	23,931	27,574	345	1.3%
<b>Finance, Insurance, Real Estate</b>	18,511	16,766	16,214	-2,297	-12.4%
<b>Professional, Scientific &amp; Technical</b>	19,536	19,337	22,283	2,746	14.1%
<b>Business, Building &amp; Other Support</b>	14,609	14,212	16,891	2,282	15.6%
<b>Educational Services</b>	16,380	15,489	15,252	-1,129	-6.9%
<b>Health Care &amp; Social Assistance</b>	34,132	32,973	39,543	5,411	15.9%
<b>Info, Culture &amp; Recreation</b>	9,496	8,164	12,323	2,828	29.8%
<b>Accommodation &amp; Food Services</b>	19,052	13,845	18,788	-264	-1.4%
<b>Other Services (except public administration)</b>	13,420	11,700	11,220	-2,200	-16.4%
<b>Public Administration</b>	9,416	8,376	12,574	3,158	33.5%

<sup>1</sup> Estimates based on Surrey share of Metro Vancouver (Census Metropolitan Area) by Industry in 2016.

<sup>2</sup> Employment by Industry, three month moving average, unadjusted for seasonality.

The sectors most impacted and still not fully recovered in Surrey are estimated to be:

- Finance, insurance and real estate is down by -2,297 jobs or -12.4%;
- Other services (personal services, high touch jobs) is down almost -2,200 jobs or -16.4%;
- Wholesale and retail trade is down -1,965 or -3.8%; and,
- Construction has continued to recover but is still down -1,464 jobs or -4.5%.

The sectors showing the greatest recovery in August 2022 since February 2020 in Surrey are estimated to be:

- Health care and social assistance is up by over 5,400 jobs or 15.9%;
- Public administration employment is up 3,158 jobs or 33.5% in Surrey;
- Information, culture and recreation is higher by 2,828 or 29.8% due to the easing of restrictions;
- Professional, scientific and technical services has increased employment by 2,746 over pre-COVID for a 14.1% rise since February 2020;
- Business, building and other support is up by almost 2,300 jobs or 15.6%; and,
- While smaller numbers, both natural resources (1,475) and utilities (450) are up by 49.0% and 26.7%, respectively, since February 2020.

Manufacturing (708 or 2.6%) and transportation and warehousing (345 or 1.3%) showed smaller growth in Surrey, but still higher employment than before the pandemic start.

## **Surrey Employment COVID-19 Impacts BY OCCUPATION – February 2020 to August 2022**

Table 2 shows employment trends by occupation in Surrey.

As of August 2022, the biggest recovery by occupation in Surrey since February 2020 has been business, finance and administration with over 5,450 new jobs, for a 13.1% increase.

Other occupational categories with significant job increases in Surrey were:

- Jobs in health occupations grew by over 4,471 or 20.9% since the pandemic.
- Natural and applied science jobs in Surrey have grown by almost 3,000 for a 15.2% lift since February 2020.
- Management positions also increased by over 2,000 jobs or 8.8%.
- Natural resource and manufacturing and utilities occupations increased by 1,766 and 1,255, respectively, with natural resources contributing the single largest percentage growth of 51.7% since February 2020.

When we consider employment by occupation in Surrey and the impacts by occupation, the greatest number of jobs impacted were in sales and service employment (-8,429 or -10.1%), and education, law and social, community and government services (-1,077 or -4.1%).

The other eight (of 10) occupational categories have fully recovered lost employment from during the pandemic.

Most Surrey industries and occupational categories have rebounded to employment levels above pre-pandemic February 2020; lagging construction employment and the slow recovery of sales & service, trades (construction related) and services previously impacted by COVID restrictions (e.g., accommodation, food, group events, etc.) continue to recover slowly.

**Table 2: Estimated Employment by Occupation in Surrey – February 2020 through August 2022**  
**Adapted from Table 14-10-0381-01, Statistics Canada**

National Occupational Classification	Employment February 2020	Employment April 2020	Employment August 2022	Change February 2020 to August 2022	
				Employment	%
<b>Total Employed (all occupations)</b>	296,748	271,848	308,541	11,793	4.0%
<b>Management</b>	22,822	23,119	24,838	2,016	8.8%
<b>Business, Finance &amp; Administration</b>	41,703	40,490	47,153	5,450	13.1%
<b>Natural &amp; Applied Sciences</b>	19,658	17,678	22,641	2,983	15.2%
<b>Health</b>	21,380	20,822	25,851	4,471	20.9%
<b>Education, Law &amp; Social, Community and Gov Services</b>	26,370	24,680	25,293	-1,077	-4.1%
<b>Art, Culture, Rec &amp; Sport</b>	6,636	5,436	7,435	800	12.1%
<b>Sales &amp; Services</b>	83,042	68,608	74,614	-8,429	-10.1%
<b>Trades, Transport &amp; Equipment Operators</b>	58,356	55,001	58,626	270	0.5%
<b>Natural Resources Agriculture &amp; related production</b>	3,414	5,209	5,180	1,766	51.7%
<b>Manufacturing &amp; Utilities</b>	13,226	11,021	14,480	1,255	9.5%

Sources:

Statistics Canada. [Table 14-10-0379-01 Employment by industry, three-month moving average, unadjusted for seasonality \(x 1,000\)](#)

Statistics Canada. [Table 14-10-0381-01 Employment by occupation, three-month moving average, unadjusted for seasonality \(x 1,000\)](#)

More Information:

BC Labour Force Survey Data, Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey, August 2022 (Released September 9, 2022)

Source: BC Stats – Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey, February 2022. Released September 9, 2022. Retrieved from [https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/data/statistics/employment-labour-market/lfs\\_data\\_tables.pdf](https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/data/statistics/employment-labour-market/lfs_data_tables.pdf)

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